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Event will show off alternative-fuel cars

By Steve Crawford

Columbia County Bureau

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Georgia Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols is bringing a "roadshow" that promotes alternative fuel to Evans on Wednesday.

The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Roadshow is a showcase designed to promote and explain the benefits of using vehicles that run on fuels other than the standard gasoline or diesel you buy at the pumps.

The showcase will present the economic and practical benefits of alternative-fueled vehicles, such as those powered by natural gas, propane, biofuels and electricity.

"This is an effort to educate fleet owners and municipalities of the benefits of clean fuel," said Joy Kramer, the spokeswoman for the statewide tour.

Stops also are planned for Atlanta, Warner Robins, Clayton, Savannah and Columbus over the next two weeks, Kramer said.

Industry experts will be on hand to answer questions and to provide advice for business owners interested in transforming their fleets to run the cleaner fuels, Kramer said.

"There are some upfront costs, but there are very rapid returns on investment for all these fuels," she said. "When you put (natural gas) in your vehicle, you are paying about a dollar less per gallon at the pump."

Kramer said the showcase was sponsored and funded by "clean fuel" manufacturers and suppliers, such as Georga Power and Atlanta Gas Light, and other companies that seek to promote alternative-fuel vehicles, such as Nissan, which makes the all-electric Leaf.

The Leaf and several other types of vehicles will be on display, including a natural gas-fueled garbage truck used by Augusta trash haulers.

"We will have every example of clean fuel on display for a car, truck, van or bus," she said.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Alternative Fuel Roadshow

WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday

WHERE: 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans

COST: \$29; light snacks will be served

REGISTER ONLINE: AFVRoadshow.com/attend